



ANNUAL REPORT  
as to the  
Sanitary Conditions  
of the  
URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS  
for the Year 1938.

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By

***G. O'B. Vincent,*** M.R.C.S. (Eng.),  
L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

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Printed by Francis Cupiss, Ltd., Diss, Norfolk.



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# Urban District of Diss.

## COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

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To the Chairman and Members of the

DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Holker and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1938, which is framed in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1728 dated 25th October, 1938.

### Section A.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	3,628 (including water)
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Population :—

(a) Census, 1931	..	3,421
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(b) Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1938		3,297
--	--	-------

Number of Inhabited Houses  
(end of 1938) according to

Rate Books	...	...	1,047
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Rateable Value	...	...	£15,109
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Sum represented by a penny rate £59/11/9

### Social Conditions.

There is scope for some improvement in the social conditions, but with the building of 22 new houses, which was commenced at the end of the year, there should be a definite improvement, and Diss should then compare very favourably with other towns in agricultural districts.

For various reasons there has been an increase of unemployment of a seasonal nature.

There are no industries in the Urban District but a Matting and Brush Factory has been operating for many years just over the border, most of the employees of which are drawn from the Urban District.

### Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births	{	Total	M	F	}	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 15.7		
		Legitimate	48	26			22	
		Illegitimate	4	1	3			
Stillbirths	{	Legitimate	2	—	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births — 16.3		
		Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Deaths	...	...	...	...	35	10	25	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 10.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... .. NIL.								
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—								
All infants per 1,000 live births						...	...	19.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births						...	...	19.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						NIL		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 4								
„	„	Measles (all ages) ... ..				...	...	Nil
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..				...	...	Nil
„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..				..	..	Nil

From the above statistics it will be seen that there is a considerable increase in the birth rate and a lowered death rate, both these figures compare favourably with the rates for England and Wales.

There have been no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year.

## Section B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health — G. O'B. VINCENT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector — G. HANDEL JONES, (Diplomas  
of the Royal Sanitary Institute,  
Institute of Hygiene and British  
Red Cross Society.)

District Nurses — NURSE A. TOLLAND, Q.N., S.R.N.  
Stanley Road, Diss.

NURSE L. RAYNER, S.C.M.

"Apsley", Victoria Road, Diss.

### Hospital and Nursing Facilities, etc.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Facilities are given by the County Laboratory, Norwich.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Facilities are available for non-infectious and accident cases locally. The Diss ambulance is maintained by public and voluntary subscriptions. The services are adequate and there are arrangements for its co-ordination with surrounding services.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is carried out very satisfactorily by two general and maternity Nurses. (N.B. For Nurses' Report see Appendix A.)

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre holds Meetings once a month at the Church Hall, when advice to nursing and expectant mothers is given, and the weighing of infants is undertaken by the District and Maternity Nurses.

(e) HOSPITALS.

Hospital facilities are available for non-infectious cases at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

Unfortunately there is no local hospital.

Infectious cases in an emergency are admitted to the County Isolation Hospital for Infectious Fevers at East Dereham.

## Section C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

The supply of water has been satisfactory, in quality and quantity, but the position still stands, as it has for some years, with regard to the storage of water, which is quite inadequate.

The following is an extract from a report of a bacteriological examination made on 13th May, 1938 :—

*SAMPLE ex Diss Waterworks after passing through  
softener and filter.*

(The chemical results are stated in grains per gallon).

Total Solids in Solution	... ..	27.3
Ammonia :—		
Free and Saline	... ..	trace
Albuminoid	... ..	.002
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ..	3.6
Nitrogen as Nitrates	... ..	Nil
Nitrites	... ..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	...	Nil
Hardness :—		
Total	... ..	13.0°
Permanent	... ..	11.3°
Bacteriological Results :—		
Bacteria per c.c. on agar at 37°C		Nil
Bacillus Coli — Absent in 100 c.c.		

*REMARKS :—*

*This water is of good organic purity and free from any sign of pollution both chemically and bacteriologically, Its bacteriological quality is of high standard. The water is quite suitable for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply.*

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewer at Frenze Road has been extended a further 102 feet. This extension is for the more efficient drainage of this area.

The Sewerage in Roydon Road, Croft Lane and Louies Lane is inadequate but an improved scheme is in contemplation.

### Public Lavatories.

New Public Lavatories have been built in Mere Street on land acquired on a lease for 99 years.



## Rivers and Streams.

A complaint of silting up of the river bed by the overflow of the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works was dealt with and after inspection and Report has been remedied.

## Closet Accommodation.

*(From the Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

1. Conversion to Water Carriage System, 1938.
 

(a) Number converted from Privy-Pail Closets	Nil
(b) Number converted from Privy-Vault Closets	1
	<hr/>
Total	1
	<hr/>
  
2. Number of Water Closets to new Houses :—
 

(a) Bungalows ... ..	1
(b) Houses ... ..	5
(c) Cottages ... ..	Nil
(d) Other houses and premises ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	7
	<hr/>
  
3. Number of Closets of each type remaining at the end of year 1938.
 

Number of Privy Vaults (fixed type) ... ..	109
Number of Pail Closets (removable receptacles)	209
Number of Fresh Water W.C.'s ... ..	524
Number of Waste Water W.C.'s ... ..	87
  
4. Total Number of Water W.C.'s (both types) connected to the sewers, including houses, bungalows, factories, schools and public buildings ... .. 650

## Public Cleansing.

*(From Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

This work is done by Contract and includes the whole of the District which is of an urban character. The parts of the District excluded are those of a rural character which include Diss Heywood and the Burston Road, the distance to be covered making this prohibitive and the cost excessive, there being only isolated farm-houses and cottages.

## Scavenging.

*(From Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

The Scavenging is done by Contract, the Contractor working under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The Contract provides for the weekly collection and disposal of the contents of Privy Pails and Sanitary Dustbins ; the emptying of Cesspools, Privy Vault Closets and Dustbins (fixed receptacles) as and when required.

The Contract does not provide for the removal of trade refuse. This is left for the persons concerned to make their own arrangements with the Contractor.

The Contract is for a term of three years from the 1st October, 1937, and expiring on the 30th September, 1940.

The Council provides the whole of the equipment and the necessary carts for the work.

During the year the whole of the equipment and the carts have been overhauled and repaired.

Particulars of Work.	Year 1938.	
	Number emptied.	Loads removed.
Number of Pail Closets emptied weekly	209	208
Number of Dustbins emptied weekly	604	884
Number of Privy Closets (fixed type) emptied	52	40
Number of Dustbins (fixed type) emptied	10	11
Number of Cesspools emptied ... ..	7	20
Accumulation of dry refuse removed	1	1

### SUMMARY.

Number of Loads removed — Excreta	...	...	268
Number of Loads removed — Dry Refuse	...		896
	Total		<u>1,164</u>

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(*From Sanitary Inspector's Report*).

### 1. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS, with particulars :—

Housing .. .. .	210
Scavenging ... .. .	46
Drainage ... .. .	31
Markets ... .. .	63
Factories and Workshops ... .. .	42
Infectious Diseases ... .. .	10
Slaughterhouses ... .. .	385
Dairies and Cowsheds ... .. .	56
Vans used for human habitation ... .. .	17
Inspections with Medical Officer of Health ... .. .	15
Shops Act, 1934 ... .. .	193
Total	<u>1,068</u>

### 2. NOTICES.

Number of Formal Notices served ... .. .	21
Number of Informal Notices served ... .. .	14
Total	<u>35</u>
Number of Notices complied with ... .. .	35

### 3. NUISANCES.

Complaints received ... .. .	12
Found on inspection .. .. .	15
Total	<u>27</u>
Abated by Informal Notice ... .. .	5
Abated upon request by Officer ... .. .	22
	<u>27</u>

## Shops and Offices.

### Shops Act, 1934.

(*Taken from Inspector's Report*).

Number of Inspections of Shops ... .. .	193
Number of Shops entered on Register ... .. .	92
Number of Offices in the District ... .. .	18

The following contraventions were found on inspection :—

Cleansing Premises ... ..	1
Unsuitable Lavatory (Repairs)... ..	1
Insufficient Lavatory Accommodation ... ..	3
Insufficient Ventilation ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	6
	<hr/>
Number of Notices served ... ..	5
Number of Notices complied with ... ..	4
Number of Notices not complied with 31st December, 1938	1
Number of contraventions remedied on verbal request of Inspector	1

All the Offices in the District are provided with proper sanitary arrangements and water supply, means of heating and ventilation.

By agreement the powers and duties of enforcing the provisions of Sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, are exercised in the Urban District of Diss by the District Council as agents for the Norfolk County Council, under date 2nd October, 1935.

### **Camping Sites.**

*(Taken from Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

There were no sites in this area which were used for camping purposes during the year 1938.

### **Vans used for Human Habitation.**

*(Taken from Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

17 Vans were inspected during the year. All were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition. Satisfactory arrangements were made in each case for the following services :—

- (a) Water Supply.
- (b) Refuse Collection and Disposal.
- (c) Lavatory Accommodation.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

*(Taken from Sanitary Inspector's Report).*

The following particulars are given of gas and electrical appliances used for various purposes in this District in substitution for coal :—

## SUMMARY — 1938.

## (a) Cooking Purposes :—

1. Number of Gas Cookers	776
2. Number of Electric Cookers	119

## (b) Heating and Warming Purposes :—

1. Number of Gas Fires	164
2. Number of Electric Heaters	433

## (c) Other Appliances :—

1. Gas	197
2. Electric (Wash Boilers)	12

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

The Number of Houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses	Nil
(b) Other Houses	Nil

**Schools.**

The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply of the Schools is satisfactory.

The Schools were closed for a short period owing to the prevalence of Influenza during the Winter.

**Section D.****Housing.**

(From Sanitary Inspector's Report).

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	... .. 59
--	-----------

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	185
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	... 15
--	--------

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
--	----

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 16  |

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	14
---	----

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

### (a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs  | 15  |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— |     |
| (a) By Owners ... ..   | 15  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..                                       | Nil |

### (b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 10  |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—               |     |
| (a) By Owners ... ..  | 10  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..  | Nil |

### (c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil |
|---|-----|

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..      | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses (declared unfit) demolished voluntarily by owners ... .. | 1   |

(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... ..  | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | Nil |

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 38 SUB-SECTION (1) OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Number of dangerous and dilapidated buildings in respect of which notices were served requiring demolition .. ...	1
---	---

Number of dangerous and dilapidated buildings demolished in compliance with notices served :—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (a) By owners ... ..                               | 1   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. | Nil |

**Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) 1. Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..  | 15  |
| 2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ..   | 15  |
| 3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..  | 93  |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..   | 5   |
| (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ..   | 1   |
| 2. Number of persons concerned in such case ... ..  | 5   |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... .. | Nil |



## Section E.

# Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(Taken from Sanitary Inspector's Report).

### Milk Supply.

Number of Inspections made of Cowsheds and Dairies ...	56
Number of Inspections with Medical Officer of Health	9
Number of samples taken during the year for "Accredited"	
Standard ... ..	28

Three samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Repeat samples in each case were taken, these passed and complied with the prescribed conditions.

Number of registrations in the district:—

Retailers of Milk ... ..	18
Producers of Milk ... ..	9
	—
Total	27
	—

Number of "Accredited" Producer Licences 5 |

Number of "T.T." Licences ... .. 1 |

Total 6 |

All the "Accredited" Licence Producers have upon their premises adequate means of sterilisation by steam, in each case a special plant being installed for the purpose.

During the year two cowsheds have been re-conditioned with construction of new drainage.

During the year 12 bulk samples were taken for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Number of Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" issued ... .. 1 |



### Meat and Other Food.

Number of Slaughterhouses in the District :—

Registered	...	...	...	4
Licensed ...	...	...	...	1
Total				5

The Licence is subject to annual renewal.

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Number of visits by the Sanitary Inspector to slaughterhouses and shops	...	...	...	...	385
Number of visits with Medical Officer of Health	...				3
Total					388

Number of animals slaughtered :—

Bullocks.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
529	Nil	266	403	183	1,966	3,347

Number inspected :—

412	Nil	6	373	160	665	1,616
-----	-----	---	-----	-----	-----	-------

All diseases except Tuberculosis :—

Whole Carcasses condemned                      Cattle — 1

Carcasses of which some part or  
an organ was condemned                      Cattle — 2                      Pigs — 4

Tuberculosis only :—

Whole carcasses condemned                      ...                      ...                      Pigs — 1

Carcasses of which some part or  
organ was condemned                      Cattle — 1

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of Licences issued to slaughter animals	...	16
--	-----	----

### Markets.

63 Visits were made to the weekly open market. The inspection included stalls of fish, fruit, meat and vegetables.

## Section F.

### Infectious and other Diseases.

There has been no prevalence of Infectious Diseases apart from seasonal colds and influenza.

The scheme for artificial immunization against diphtheria has not been accepted by the local medical practitioners.

#### Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Disease	Total cases notified*	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Other Diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

#### \*An Analysis of the Total Notified Cases.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia
0—			
1—			
2—			
3—			
4—			
5—			
10—	...	2	
15—			
20—	...	...	1
35—	...	...	1
45—			
65 and over	...	1	...

A few cases of epidemic jaundice occurred but they appear to have been successfully isolated.

## CANCER.

The deaths from Cancer show a reduction :—

	Ages	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 and over
Males	...	1	—	—	—	1
Females	...	1	—	—	—	1
Total — 4.						

## TUBERCULOSIS.

*New Cases and Mortality during 1938.*

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938 are given below :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—	...	1						
5—	...		...	1				
15—	...	2						
25—								
35—								
45—								
55—	...		...		...	1		
65 and upwards.	1							
Totals	...	3	1	...	1	...	1	...

Notification appears satisfactory. No non-notified Tuberculosis came to my notice.

## Disinfection and Cleansing.

(From Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Number of rooms disinfected following cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of cottages cleansed before re-habitation	...					2
Number of visits in cases of infectious disease	...	...				10

July, 1939.

G. O'B. VINCENT,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## Appendix "A".

## Nurses' Report for 1938.

## General Nursing.

No. of cases nursed	...	...	...	...	...	68
„ „ nursing visits	...	...	...	...	...	2122
„ „ tuberculosis visits	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ casual visits	...	...	...	...	...	286

## Midwifery and Maternity.

No. of Midwifery cases	...	...	...	..	...	2
„ „ Nursing visits to these	...	...	...	...	...	36
„ „ Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ Nursing visits to these	...	...	..	...	...	586
„ „ Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	..	...	207

## Health Visiting.

No. of Infants visited under 1 year	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Visits paid to these infants	...	...	...	...	306
„ „ Children visited over 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	165
„ „ Visits paid to these children	...	...	...	...	512

Four mothers have been supplied with milk under the Norfolk County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

The Infant Welfare Centre held at the Church Hall each month has been well attended.

A. TOLLAND.

L. RAYNER.

**Appendix "B."****Special Reports to the Council,****Year 1938.***(Presented by the Sanitary Inspector).***1. Report — Housing.**

In reference to the following :—

(a) Individually Unfit Houses.

(b) Overcrowded Houses.

Report dated 26th March, 1938.

**2. Report — National Housing and Town Planning Conference.**

Annual Housing and Town Planning Conference of Local Authorities in the Eastern Counties, held in the Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, on Thursday, June 9th, 1938.

Report dated 15th June, 1938.

**3. Report — Sewage Works, Victoria Road.**

In reference to a visit of inspection of the Sewage Works, Victoria Road, in company with the Medical Officer of Health and the Foreman of the Surveyor's Department.

Report dated 9th September, 1938.

## Appendix "C."

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938 for the Urban District of Diss in the County of Norfolk on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

### 1. Inspections.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	14	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	20	Nil	Nil
Other premises under the Act	8	Nil	Nil
Total	42	Nil	Nil

### 2. Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.		Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—



